Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ANKARA 02728 101236Z ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CPR-01 OIC-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NEAE-00 /076 W

-----069083 101305Z/53

O P 101125Z APR 78 FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1443 INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL ANKARA 2728

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: CENTO SUBJECT: CENTO MINISTERIAL

REF: A) ISLAMABAD 3422, B) TEHRAN 3305, C) STATE 89378, D) STATE 89338

1. EMBOFF CALLED CENTO SECRETARY GENERAL'S SPECIAL ASSISTANT, PATRICK METCALFE, APRIL 10 TO PASS ON INFORMALLY OUR INFORMATION THAT BOTH PAKISTAN AND IRAN WERE AGREEABLE TO THE CHANGE IN VENUE FOR THE MINISTERIAL (REF A AND B). METCALFE SAID THAT THE SECRETARIAT HAD NOT BEEN OFFICIALLY INFORMED OF THE DECISION OF THESE TWO REGIONALS BUT WAS ACTING ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT LONDON WOULD HOST THE CONFERENCE. (METCALFE WILL LEAD THE SECRETARIAT ADVANCE PARTY DEPARTING ANKARA FOR LONDON APRIL 11, AND THE REST OF THE SECRETARIAT DELEGATION WILL FOLLOW APRIL 15.) METCALFE SAID THAT SECRETARY GENERAL GURUN WILL RETURN TO ANKARA FROM TEHRAN TODAY (APRIL 10) PRESUMABLY WITH OFFICIAL IRANIAN AGREEMENT AND THAT HE WOULD COMMUNICATE THIS TO TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER OKCUN. HE SAID OKCUN HAS TOLD THE SECRETARY GENERAL THAT TURKEY WILL NOT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ANKARA 02728 101236Z

OBJECT TO THE CHANGE OF VENUE IF THE OTHER REGIONALS ARE AGREEABLE. METCALFE ADDED THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL WILL BE REPLYING FORMALLY TO SECRETARY VANCE'S LETTER (REF C) UPON HIS RETURN TO ANKARA.

2. EMBOFF ALSO SPOKE WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY CENTO DESK OFFICER, BALKAN, WHO CONFIRMED THAT TURKEY HAD INDICATED AGREEMENT

TO THE LONDON VENUE IF PAKISTAN AND IRAN HAD NO OBJECTION. BALKAN SAID, HOWEVER, THAT A FORMAL DECISION AND REPLY TO SECRETARY VANCE (REF D) WOULD AWAIT THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT.

3. WE HAVE KEPT THE BRITISH EMBASSY FULLY INFORMED AND THEY ARE ALREADY IN THE PROCESS OF PASSING CONFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN CENTO AND LONDON. SPIERS

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